

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF  
NCIS DIRECTOR THOMAS A. BETRO

**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 8, 2009*

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Special Agent Thomas A. Betro, Director of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, who announced his retirement from that organization in August 2009 after nearly 27 years of highly distinguished service. In addition to his service to NCIS and the nation, Director Betro is among the notable graduates of Colby College, in Waterville, ME.

Mr. Betro joined NCIS in 1982, and during his tenure he has served in a variety of organizational assignments and mission areas, both within the United States and overseas. As a Special Agent, Mr. Betro served overseas in both the Republic of the Philippines and in Iceland. Domestically he held leadership positions in Philadelphia, PA and Newport, RI. He served two separate tours as an NCIS Special Agent Afloat during deployments of the USS *John F. Kennedy* and USS *Enterprise*.

As Deputy Assistant Director, DAD, for Counterintelligence, CI, investigations and operations, Mr. Betro oversaw the development and implementation of the NCIS response to the USS *Cole* bombing, which led to the significant increase of NCIS force protection support to Naval expeditionary forces. Further, he established new criteria for on-the-ground NCIS port visit support, opened new NCIS offices to increase CI support to in-transit units, and greatly expanded counterterrorism, CT, operations for safeguarding naval equities.

In April 2001, Mr. Betro was selected to serve as a Deputy to the National Counterintelligence Executive, NCIX. He later was appointed to the position of National Counterintelligence Executive (Acting) by the NCIX Board of Directors, on behalf of the President of the United States. Mr. Betro was promoted to the Senior Executive Service in March 2002.

Upon returning to NCIS in January 2003, Mr. Betro served as Executive Assistant Director, EAD, for CI until August 2003, when he was promoted to Deputy Director for Operations, DDO. During his time as DDO, NCIS established its Contingency Response Field Office, CRFO, located aboard the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Brunswick, GA. CRFO trains NCIS personnel to be rapidly deployed globally in support of the NCIS core missions of criminal investigations, counterterrorism investigations and operations, counterintelligence investigations and operations, protective operations, and force protection/antiterrorism operations.

On January 8, 2006 Mr. Betro was appointed Director of NCIS and at that time became the agency's third civilian director. Under Director Betro's leadership, NCIS has filled every validated Combatant Commander request for forces for Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Horn of Africa on a volunteer basis. Since 2002, there have been approximately 700 NCIS personnel that have deployed to the above mentioned locations as well as to Kuwait, Djibouti, Guantanamo Bay, and other sites.

In February 2007, Director Betro established the NCIS Diversity Office, which is charged

with developing and sustaining a model program that recognizes the critical role diversity plays in the NCIS global mission. Key functions that are aligned under the Diversity office at NCIS include the Equal Opportunity Program; Alternative Dispute Resolution; Diversity Research and Analysis; and Recruiting Outreach. Through his leadership in action, Director Betro has ensured that diversity awareness is now reflected in all core business functions at NCIS and that NCIS is a model for other agencies to follow.

Mr. Betro has received numerous commendations and awards. He is a recipient of the Presidential Meritorious Executive Rank Award, as well as the Department of the Navy, DON, Distinguished Civilian Service Award and the U.S. Attorney's Award for Outstanding Leadership. He was recognized in 2008 with the Roger W. Jones Award for Executive Leadership and is a prior recipient of the DON Meritorious Civilian Service Award. While assigned to NCIX, he received the National Intelligence Certificate of Distinction and a Meritorious Unit Citation.

In addition to his Bachelor of Arts degree in Government from Colby College, Mr. Betro holds a Master of Arts degree from the Naval War College, where he earned the James Forrestal Award for "Excellence in Strategy and Force Planning."

Though he is formally retiring from NCIS, Mr. Betro has accepted a position with an international security firm based in New York.

Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Betro for his 27 years of outstanding public service and to wish him fair winds and following seas as he begins the next chapter of his life.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PASSING  
OF CHARLES SHANKLIN

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 8, 2009*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Charles E. Shanklin, a Northwest Florida community leader who passed away on August 26, 2009. Charles spent his entire life serving his community and family, and I am proud to honor his life of dedication and service.

Charles Shanklin was born in Oak Park, Illinois in 1929. He attended Bowling Green State University and Ohio State University, earning his Juris Doctor in 1952. Charles became a brilliant and outstanding attorney at Baker & Hostetler in Columbus, Ohio, and served as the managing partner. He remained at the firm for thirty-two years. After his retirement from Baker & Hostetler, Charles became the owner and manager of Marion Steel in 1981, where he worked until 1989.

In 1990, Charles purchased Crestview Aerospace in Crestview, Florida. He operated the company as a family business until 2006, when it became a part of the L-3 Communications Corporation. During his years in Northwest Florida, Charles became an integral part of the business and local communities. Over his lifetime, he worked with Bowling Green State University, the Sigma Chi Fraternity organization, the American Bar Association, Urbana University, and the Niceville Exchange

Club. Charles was awarded Director Emeritus of Bowling Green in 2009, and the school endowed a meritorious scholarship in his name to recognize excellence in original research by graduate students.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to honor Mr. Charles Shanklin. Charles will be remembered by all as loving husband and father, a successful lawyer and businessman, and an important part of our Northwest Florida community. Vicki and I will keep his wife, Bernice, and children, Chuck, John, Tom, Jean, and Ann, in our prayers.

HONORING MARINE LANCE  
CORPORAL BRIAN K. SCHRAMM

**HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN LEE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 8, 2009*

Mr. LEE of New York. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor fallen Marine Brian Schramm, the first resident of the 26th Congressional District to lose his life in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

On June 20, 2009, President Obama signed into law H.R. 1595, legislation renaming the post office at 3245 Latta Road in Greece, New York in honor of Lance Corporal Schramm.

Brian Schramm made the ultimate sacrifice to protect the values that sustain this country—family, community, hard work, and freedom. It is no surprise that one friend of Brian's described him as the "most genuine person you'd ever meet in your entire life." That is why I introduced legislation to rename the post office just a few miles down the road from where Brian grew up in his honor. I am heartened that the people of the Town of Greece will have this opportunity to pay lasting tribute to Brian's life and legacy.

Lance Corporal Schramm was born and raised in the Town of Greece, Brian fulfilled a lifelong dream by signing up for the Marines shortly after graduating from Greece Olympia High School in 2001. On his second tour of Iraq, Marine Lance Corporal Schramm was assigned to the 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, based out of Camp Lejeune, N.C. On Oct. 15, 2004, he died as a result of enemy action in Babil province, Iraq. He was 22.

Brian is survived by his parents, Keith and Mary Ellen, his older sister, Jennifer, and his two younger brothers, Kyle and Michael. Mary Ellen is a co-founder of the Rochester chapter of Gold Star Mothers.

Madam Speaker, in recognition this selfless individual and brave patriot who gave his life to protect this nation, I ask this Honorable Body to join me in honoring the legacy of Lance Corporal Brian K. Schramm.

H.R. 2014, AWARDING A CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO WOMEN  
AIRFORCE SERVICE PILOTS

**HON. CHET EDWARDS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 8, 2009*

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise as an original co-sponsor of this bill,